

Idaho Keeps Refuting Forced-Unionism Apologists

After Two Decades of Right to Work, Gem State's #1 in Job Growth

Twenty years ago this November, a solid 54% to 46% majority of Idahoans voted down a union boss-instigated initiative intended to overturn the state's then-fledgling Right to Work law.

Less than two years earlier, the Idaho Legislature, with more than two-thirds majorities in both houses, had passed a state Right to Work law that bars the firing of any employee for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

And since their 1986 victory, pro-Right to Work citizens mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee and regional allied groups have time and again successfully lobbied state legislators to reject Big Labor-concocted bills to gut the law.

The Committee's citizen mobilization and educational efforts over the years have clearly helped solidify public opinion in favor of Right to Work in Idaho.

Just this year, AFL-CIO officials' latest scheme to repeal Right to Work through an initiative failed to garner even enough valid signatures to make the November ballot.

Idaho's Private-Sector Job Growth Over Past Year: A Sizzling 6.1%

But the AFL-CIO hierarchy remains determined to prevail, by hook or by crook.

Propaganda campaigns repeatedly mounted by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, with the help of their lieutenants in the Gem State, are designed to confuse Idahoans about their Right to Work law and its economic impact.

In a strange twist, AFL-CIO propagandists are shedding crocodile tears for *employers*, suggesting the Right to Work law restricts employer freedom to bargain contracts.

"What the law actually does is stop union officials from imposing contract provisions on employers forcing them to fire workers who refuse to pay dues or fees to a union," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's the only new 'restriction' that was implemented when the Right to Work law took effect. And it's a 'restriction' that enjoys the overwhelming



Over the past year, Right to Work Idaho has led the nation in private-sector job growth. Gem State

employment is growing more than twice as fast as in the three Rocky Mountain forced-dues states.

support of Idahoans.

"On the economic front, the fact is, young employees and entrepreneurs are voting with their feet against forced dues and for Idaho and other Right to Work states," continued Mr. Mix.

"Between 1994 and 2004, the number of 25–34 year-olds increased by 24.2% in Idaho and by 6.5% in Right to Work states as a group, but fell by 8.6% in non-Right to Work states as a group.

"Why are so many young people moving out of non-Right to Work states to accept jobs and start businesses in Right to Work states like Idaho? Unless you're a Big Labor ideologue, you can understand it's because better jobs and opportunities are available in Right to Work states.

"From June 2005 to June 2006 alone, private-sector jobs in Idaho increased by 6.1% — more than in any other state and more than quadruple the forced-dues state average. High-paying construction jobs, which grew by an amazing 18.1%, led the way.

"Yet union kingpins falsely claim the Right to Work law has somehow harmed Idaho's economy."

In a recent interview with the far-left *Nation* magazine, current state AFL-CIO

President Dave Whaley vowed to carry on the Big Labor crusade to eliminate Idaho's Right to Work into 2008 and beyond, if necessary.

Committee President Vows to Help Defend Idaho Statute

As union propagandists correctly point out, no matter how many times Big Labor has been defeated, it "only takes once to repeal Idaho's law...."

Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee would do everything necessary to help Idaho citizens fend off the next attack.

"The Committee and its grass-roots allies in Idaho are prepared if necessary to make a major investment in 2007–2008 to clear the air and get the real record out there," he said.

"Of course, the best outcome will be if the Committee's low-cost educational efforts again dissuade sufficient numbers of Idahoans from signing the Big Labor petitions to keep Right to Work repeal off the ballot."

Mr. Mix urged Idahoans who want to help block Big Labor's pending 2008 forced-dues initiative to call Committee Legislative Director Greg Mourad at 703-321-9820. gmourad@nrtw.org